


From: EnergyGuardian <energy@email.energyguardian.net>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 10:18 AM
To: Coleman, Sam
Subject: Texas No. 1 in energy carbon emissions, recent declines

[Advertise](#) | [Contact](#)

 Energy and environment headlines for the morning of Monday, August 25, 2014





Texas No. 1 in energy carbon emissions, recent declines

By Edward Felker

A large rectangular placeholder for a missing image.

Texas led the nation in energy-related carbon emissions in 2011, according to new data from the Energy Department, but was also the leader among dozens of states where emissions fell since 2000.

In an annual Energy Information Administration report on state emissions from all sources of energy used, released last week, Texas in 2011 accounted for 655.5 million metric tons of carbon. It easily outpaced second-ranking California, at 345.8 million metric tons.

Those two states were followed in the top five by:

- Pennsylvania, 244.7 million metric tons;
- Ohio, 233.4 million metric tons;
- Florida, 227.1 million metric tons.

Among the 37 states where emissions fell, Texas led the way in total reductions, down 65 million tons compared to 2000, about 9 percent, EIA said.

New York had the biggest percentage decline among large states, at 24 percent, down 50 million tons. The largest percentage decline among all states was by Nevada, at 26 percent.

Nationally, energy-related carbon emissions were down 8.3 percent in 2011 compared to 2000, by a combined total of 486.4 million tons.

Among the 13 states with carbon emissions growth, Nebraska had the greatest total amount, at 10.5 million tons, and the highest percentage growth of 25.5 percent.

EIA noted that the top five states in terms of carbon emissions per person in 2011 were all energy producers.

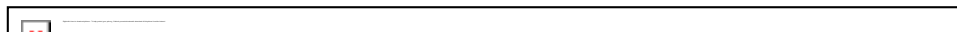
Wyoming, with just 600,000 residents, had a per-capita emissions rate of 113 metric tons, followed by North Dakota at 78 metric tons.

The other three, in order, were Alaska, West Virginia and Louisiana, all of them at about 50 metric tons per capita.

The data showed how states differ in the sources of their carbon emissions. The top source in Texas was petroleum, at 45.5 percent of its output, followed by natural gas at 30.1 percent and coal at 24.4 percent.

Coal's share of emissions from California, conversely, was just 1.5 percent, with petroleum accounting for nearly two-thirds, at 65.1 percent, and natural gas at 33.5 percent. The total exceeds 100 percent because of rounding.

The full report can be seen [here](#).



Quick Links

Expert calls for California nuke plant closure

Dog Days publishing schedule for EnergyGuardian

Survey: US gasoline prices down 4 cents per gallon

Police: Southern Illinois plant explosion kills 2

Obama back in DC amid crises; as if he never left

Dempsey: We will act if Islamic group threatens US

Ukraine: Russian tank column enters southeast

4 Kochs took genes, money in different directions

Report: Iran opens uranium-conversion plant

Iran: Downed Israeli drone near nuclear site

Whisky's worries mirror economic fears in Scotland

Protesters against brown coal form human chain in Europe

Correction to story about a new Texas state park

Lobbying to ramp up for lifting crude export ban

Oil decline continues despite geopolitical concerns

Sanctions to slow some joint projects with Rosneft: Statoil

FERC could move to make changes in capacity markets: LaFleur

Scientists document East Coast methane seepage

WIPP accident: 6 months on, no official cause

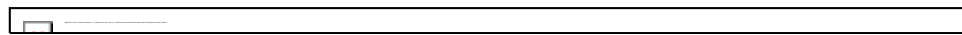
Texas regulator worried about safety of pipelines, infrastructure

New advances reported in hydrogen, battery technologies

Louisiana GOP lawmakers warn against EPA move on ozone

Battle renews over reviving California gold mine

Upcoming Events



Expert calls for California nuke plant closure

By Michael R. Blood

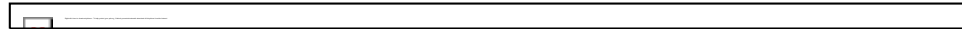
LOS ANGELES (AP) — A senior federal nuclear expert is urging regulators to shut down California's last operating nuclear plant until they can determine whether the facility's twin reactors can

withstand powerful shaking from any one of several nearby earthquake faults.

Michael Peck, who for five years was Diablo Canyon's lead on-site inspector, says in a 42-page, confidential report that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is not applying the safety rules it set out for the plant's operation.

The document, which was obtained and verified by The Associated Press, does not say the plant itself is unsafe.

Instead, according to Peck's analysis, no one knows whether the facility's key equipment can withstand stronger shaking from those faults. The NRC and plant owner Pacific Gas and Electric Co. say the facility is safe.



Dog Days publishing schedule for EnergyGuardian

By EnergyGuardian

The Dog Days of summer are upon us, and as is tradition during the week leading up to Labor Day, EnergyGuardian will publish a single midday edition each day from Aug. 25 through Aug. 29. There will be no newsletter on Labor Day, Sept. 1.

Of course, we'll cover any breaking news with alerts, and then resume normal publishing on Tuesday morning, Sept. 2.

We hope you have a chance to get away and enjoy some relaxation as summer winds down, and thank you for your support all year long.



Survey: US gasoline prices down 4 cents per gallon

By The Associated Press

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — The average U.S. price of gasoline has dipped 4 cents per gallon in the past two weeks, and prices in California have fallen 5 cents in the same time period.

According to the Lundberg Survey released Sunday, the average nationwide price for a gallon of regular is now \$3.48 — 8 cents below what it was a year ago. The average price for midgrade gasoline is \$3.69, and premium is \$3.84.

Of cities surveyed in the Lower 48 states, the lowest price, \$3.11, was in Jackson, Mississippi. San Francisco had the highest price at \$3.92.

In California, prices for a gallon of regular dropped 5 cents to \$3.81. The lowest price, \$3.66, was in Bakersfield.

The average U.S. price of gasoline dropped 23 cents during the past nine weeks.

Police: Southern Illinois plant explosion kills 2

By The Associated Press

GRANITE CITY, Ill. (AP) — Police say two people are dead and more are injured after an explosion at a recycling plant in southern Illinois.

Granite City police tell television stations KMOV and KTVI that the bomb squad has been sent to the Totall Metal Recycling plant. They say that officials fear more explosions, perhaps from live ammunition rounds.

No more details have been released about the deaths. More than 160 people work at the plant, according to the company website.

The website says the company recycles everything from computers to automobiles. It also indicates that the company deals with the ammunition industry.

A person who answered the company phone said nobody could comment. Messages left with police and fire officials were not immediately returned.

Granite City is about 8 miles northeast of St. Louis.

Obama back in DC amid crises; as if he never left

By Jim Kuhnhenn

WASHINGTON (AP) — While in office, former President George H. W. Bush once plaintively asked, "What is it about August?"

Indeed, this sultry month usually associated with the doldrums of summer has burdened modern presidents with personal, domestic or international crises. And for President Barack Obama, who

returned to Washington Sunday from a two-week Martha's Vineyard vacation, what remains of the August calendar looks perhaps more daunting than when he left.

Islamic militants personalized their fight in Iraq and Syria by executing American journalist James Foley. Russia escalated tensions in Europe by moving artillery and troops on the Ukrainian border and pushing a convoy into the former Soviet republic without Kiev's approval. And a Chinese fighter jet provocatively buzzed a Navy plane in international air space.

His arrival back in the nation's capital came with one positive note — Sunday's release of an American freelance journalist who had been held hostage by al-Qaida affiliates in Syria.

Still, Obama faces his own self-imposed end-of-summer deadline for how to sidestep Congress on changes to U.S. immigration policies. And while racial tensions in Ferguson, Missouri, over the police killing of an unarmed young black man have subsided, the St. Louis suburb remains under the White House's wary gaze. Amid all that, he'll give a speech to the American Legion in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Tuesday and raise money for Democrats in New York and Rhode Island on Friday.

[More](#)

A message from the American Petroleum Institute

America is now the world's #1 natural gas producer and is expected to become #1 in oil by 2015. Smart energy policies can create jobs, grow our economy and establish America as a global energy leader.

[Learn more at ChooseEnergy.org](http://ChooseEnergy.org)

Dempsey: We will act if Islamic group threatens US

By Lolita C. Baldor

ABOARD A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP) — Gen. Martin Dempsey said Sunday that once he determines the Islamic State militants in Iraq have become a direct threat to the U.S. homeland, he will recommend the U.S. military move directly against the group in Syria.

But the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said that right now, he still believes the insurgent group is still more a regional threat and is not plotting or planning attacks against either the U.S. or Europe.

Speaking on a military plane en route to Afghanistan, Dempsey provided more detail into his thinking about the Islamic militants who have stormed across Iraq, operating out of safe havens in Syria.

Dempsey did not rule out strikes for any other critical reasons, but listed a homeland threat as one of the key triggers for any military action in Syria.

[More](#)

Ukraine: Russian tank column enters southeast

By Jim Heintz

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A Ukrainian official says a column of Russian tanks and armored vehicles has crossed into the country in the far southeast, away from where most of the intense fighting has been taking place.

Col. Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's National Security Council, told reporters the column of 10 tanks, two armored vehicles and two trucks crossed the border near Shcherbak after the nearby city of Novoazovsk was shelled during the night from Russia.

The reported incursion and shelling could indicate an attempt to move on Mariupol, a major port on the Azov Sea, an arm of the Black Sea.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Monday he had no information about the column.

4 Kochs took genes, money in different directions

By Nancy Benac

WASHINGTON (AP) — They are an outsized force in modern American politics, the best-known brand of the big money era, yet still something of a mystery to those who cash their checks.

Meet the Koch brothers. (Pronounced like the cola.)

Perhaps the first thing you need to know is that there are four of them.

Charles is the steady, driven one. He's grounded in the Kansas soil of their birth.

David is his outgoing younger brother. He's a New Yorker now and pronounces himself forever changed by a near-death experience.

William is David's free-spirited twin, a self-described contrarian whose pursuits beyond business include sailing, collecting things and suing people, including his brothers.

[More](#)

Report: Iran opens uranium-conversion plant

By The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran inaugurated a new plant Saturday to convert a type of uranium into a material that cannot be used to make nuclear weapons as part of its interim atomic deal with world powers, its official news agency reported.

The report by IRNA quoted Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's nuclear agency, saying that the plant will convert uranium hexafluoride, which can be used to make nuclear weapons and fuel. It will become uranium dioxide, which can only be used in nuclear reactors, he said.

"The process has begun and we have implemented our commitment," Salehi was quoted as saying.

The plant is located in central Iranian city of Isfahan, the report said. Iran has a nuclear power plant in southern port of Bushehr that went online in 2011.

In November, Iran accepted to cap its uranium enrichment in return for the easing of some sanctions by the West. Iran and world powers now are negotiating terms of a final deal, which faces a November deadline.

[More](#)

Iran: Downed Israeli drone near nuclear site

By Nasser Karimi

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said Sunday its forces shot down an Israeli drone as it approached an Iranian nuclear site, recovering major parts of what it described as an advanced aircraft. Israeli officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

The incident comes as Iran negotiates with world powers over its nuclear program and hard-liners press moderate President Hassan Rouhani to demand more concessions before limiting its atomic capabilities. Israel has not ruled out taking military action against Iran's nuclear facilities if its capability to build an atomic weapon progresses.

The Guards issued a statement Sunday on its website saying its forces fired a missile at the drone as it neared its uranium enrichment facility in Natanz, some 240 kilometers (150 miles) south of the capital, Tehran. The statement did not say when it shot down the drone.

Guards spokesman Gen. Ramazan Sharif later told Iranian state television that officials believed it to be a "new generation" drone used by Israel.

"Major parts of the devices of the drone are intact and have been received by our friends that can be used for further information," Sharif said.

[More](#)

Whisky's worries mirror economic fears in Scotland

By Martin Benedyk and Danica Kirka

ISLAY, Scotland (AP) — Carl Reavey plunged his nose into the glass, inhaled the amber liquid's scent, then sipped. Slowly.

It's said that Scotch tastes of the place where it is made, so Reavey's Bruichladdich Black Art single malt would offer a touch of barley, a splash of the sea, and a whiff of salt from the island of Islay, 140 miles (225 kilometers) west of Glasgow.

That taste takes time — a long time — to produce, with top-rated Scotch aged for decades. And it means distilleries need to have long-term plans for investments and financing — all of which could

be thrown into turmoil in a single day, Sept. 18, when Scotland votes on whether to leave Britain.

Whisky makers and many other businesses are worried about the risks involved in finding themselves overnight in a new country with, among other things, a different currency.

"The uncertainty associated with independence, rather than independence itself, really, I think is the concern," Reavey said.

The most contentious issue so far has been what currency an independent Scotland would use. The central government has ruled out sharing the pound, saying British taxpayers shouldn't be forced to underwrite economic and fiscal policies over which they have no control. Pro-independence leader Alex Salmond has refused to offer a plan B, arguing that the stance of the unity advocates is merely a scare tactic.

[More](#)

Protesters against brown coal form human chain in Europe

By The Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Several thousand people formed a human chain across the German-Polish border Saturday to protest the expansion of open-cast mining for brown coal in the region.

Organizers said more than 7,500 people linked up in a 5-mile chain between Kerkwitz, Germany, and Grabice, Poland — two villages that activists fear will be evacuated to make way for further brown coal mines, also known as lignite.

Some of the demonstrators waded into the Neisse river, which divides the two countries, as part of the chain. The leaders of Germany's opposition Green party were among those attending the protest.

Both coal and lignite, which is decried as a dirty fuel by environmentalists, play a significant part in the energy mix of both Germany and Poland.

Correction to story about a new Texas state park

HOUSTON (AP) — In a story posted on EnergyGuardian Thursday, Aug. 21, about a new state park planned for southeast Texas, The

Associated Press erroneously reported the amount of money from a BP and Transocean fund that was used to buy the land. It was \$34.5 million, not \$32 million.

The AP also misidentified the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's executive director, Carter Smith, as the head of its nonprofit fundraising partner, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. Lastly, it was the state agency, not the foundation, which estimated that as much as 99 percent of Texas' coastal plain has been lost to agriculture or animal grazing.

A corrected version of the story is visible [here](#).

SPONSORED LINKS

Smoking Birds?



\$1.6B green energy loan wreaks havoc.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE BRIEF](#)

Lobbying to ramp up for lifting crude export ban

Oil companies including ConocoPhillips, Marathon, Hess and Pioneer Natural Resources are gearing up for a fresh push to get the decades-old ban on crude exports lifted, although refiners and even some Republican lawmakers remain opposed, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[More](#)

Oil decline continues despite geopolitical concerns

Oil prices were still sinking Monday as crude was continuing to flow despite the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Libya, although analysts predicted further significant declines were unlikely. U.S. benchmark crude was 47 cents lower to \$93.18 a barrel, while Brent crude lost 18 cents to \$102.11 toward the end of the European trading day, Reuters reports.

[More](#)

Sanctions to slow some joint projects with Rosneft: Statoil

Approval for some joint ventures with Russian state-owned oil company Rosneft will slow down as a result of sanctions imposed because of the Ukraine crisis, the CEO for Norwegian oil giant Statoil, Helge Lund, told The Wall Street Journal at a conference.

[More](#)

FERC could move to make changes in capacity markets: LaFleur

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission chair Cheryl LaFleur told E&E in a recent interview that she wouldn't rule out future changes to the way capacity markets operate, an issue that FERC staff is examining.

[More](#)

Scientists document East Coast methane seepage

Methane has been seeping from the ocean floor, in an area running from Cape Hatteras up to the Georges Bank, for at least a thousand years, researchers said in a [paper](#) published in the journal Nature Geoscience, The New York Times reports.

[More](#)

WIPP accident: 6 months on, no official cause

More than six months after a drum of nuclear waste exploded, spewing radioactive foam at the Energy Department's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, the facility remains closed, there's still no determination of the exact chemical reaction that caused the blast and experts estimate impact costs could climb to near \$1 billion, the Los Angeles Times reports.

[More](#)

Texas regulator worried about safety of pipelines, infrastructure

Texas Railroad Commissioner David Porter, a Republican, has written to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency expressing concerns that pipeline easements have become channels for smugglers and other illegal activity, FuelFix reports.

[More](#)

New advances reported in hydrogen, battery technologies

Stanford researchers, [writing in the journal Nature Communications](#), say they've come up with an economical device to generate hydrogen from water using a single AAA battery, while Michigan company Sakti3 announced it has created a lithium ion battery with double the energy density of those commonly in use today, E&E reports.

[More](#)

Louisiana GOP lawmakers warn against EPA move on ozone

Any Environmental Protection Agency move to tighten ozone rules would put a "brake" on the economy without offering positive health benefits, Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said on [KPLC](#) Friday, the day he and Louisiana GOP Reps. Bill Cassidy and Charles Boustany hosted a hearing on the issue, The Hill reports.

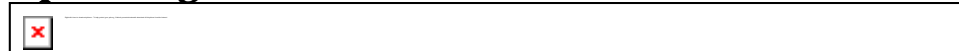
[More](#)

Battle renews over reviving California gold mine

Tim Callaway is making another push to resume mining for gold in the Sierra foothills of northern California in the face of opposition from his neighbors, The New York Times reports.

[More](#)

Upcoming Events



[Trouble seeing this email? Click here.](#)



To ensure you receive uninterrupted delivery, please add the address energy@email.energyguardian.net to your email address book.

This email was sent to Coleman.sam@epa.gov by energy@washingtonguardian.net

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please [Click Here](#)

© 2014, Packard Media Group LLC, all rights reserved | P.O. Box 9977 |
McLean, VA 22102
[Privacy Policy](#)